

Description

PHENOL-FREE PHOSPHITES

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

- [0001] The invention relates to phenol-free phosphites, which can be used to stabilize organic polymers, especially polyvinyl chloride ("PVC").
- [0002] Liquid organic phosphites have been used for many years alone and in combination with mixed metal stabilizers for the stabilization of vinyl halide polymers, especially PVC. The Encyclopedia of PVC, Volume 1, L. Nass, Ed., Marcel Dekker Inc., New York, 1977. The phosphite esters employed may be trialkyl, triaryl, mixed alkyl/aryl, and even polymeric.
- [0003] The problem of imparting polyvinyl chloride with sufficient heat processing stability at temperatures at which the polymer becomes sufficiently fluid or softened to permit shaping is of course of long standing, and has been satisfactorily resolved by the addition to the polymer of various combinations of known heat stabilizers. At processing temperatures, the PVC resin can degrade, liberat-

ing hydrogen chloride, discolor, become brittle, and stick to the processing equipment. These problems are overcome by combining with the polymer before heat processing or during heat processing, one or more of the well established and conventional heat stabilizers, such as, for example, alkyl tin mercaptides or barium/cadmium or barium/zinc or calcium/zinc salt mixed metal stabilizers, aryl, alkyl and mixed aryl/alkyl phosphites, or combinations of the above.

[0004] These stabilizers, in preventing the deterioration of the polymers during processing at high temperatures, also permit manufacture of products with increased intrinsic quality because of the enhancement of their resistance to thermal and light degradation during use. In addition, because of the ability of these products to withstand more rigorous conditions, their versatility is increased and new areas of application are thereby opened. Without going into details or theory, it has been found that mixed alkyl/aryl phosphites such as diphenylisodecyl phosphite and phosphites based on pentaerythritol give the best overall performance in combination with mixed metal stabilizer systems for the stabilization of PVC.

[0005] In recent years there has been much concern with expo-

sure to volatiles from the processing of PVC resin, and the exposure to volatiles from articles shaped from stabilized PVC resin exposed to elevated use temperatures. The volatilization of one or more components, or of the decomposition products therefrom, cause the condensation of these volatile components as "fog" on surfaces adjacent to the PVC articles. It has been found that one of the volatiles from the processing of PVC containing certain stabilizers is phenol. The phenol comes from the phosphite used in combination with the mixed metal stabilizer. There is a great need to eliminate or at least minimize the phenol content of phosphite stabilizers and still have a stabilizer which gives good color and processing stability and is relatively inexpensive.

[0006] One important objection to the contamination of PVC resins with phenol is based on the use of vinyl chloride polymers in food applications, e.g. in the manufacture of food containers. The use of phenol-free stabilizers prevents the transfer of objectionable odors or materials to food. Another consideration is the fact that for other applications, phenol has been identified as the source of the cause of premature discoloration, and is a water-soluble component.

[0007] A preferred phosphite for use with mixed metal stabilizers is diphenyl isodecyl phosphite, but this stabilizer contains about 50% of total phenol. Other phosphite stabilizers based on dialkyl pentaerythritol diphosphites have been known for some time as effective stabilizers for vinyl polymers. Despite wide usage as stabilizers for vinyl chloride polymers, polyolefins, polyurethanes, styrene polymers, and ABS, this type of phosphite has not been entirely satisfactory. The reason for this is the fact that, because of the method of preparation, namely by transesterification from triphenyl phosphite, the dialkyl pentaerythritol diphosphite is contaminated with phenol. Also, pentaerythritol phosphites are prone to hydrolysis that liberate solid pentaerythritol. In addition, it is advantageous to use mixed metal/phosphite stabilizer combinations as a single liquid component added to the PVC resin during processing. The dialkyl pentaerythritol diphosphites mentioned above are not easily combined with the liquid mixed metal stabilizers, and on standing, a mixture of the liquid mixed metal stabilizer and the dialkyl or diaryl pentaerythritol diphosphite separate into a lighter liquid layer and a more solid layer of heavy sludge. The dialkyl or diaryl pentaerythritol diphosphite also has a ten-

dency to separate from the PVC matrix on compounding, causing a phenomenon known as plate-out. This lack of package stability and formation of plate-out greatly reduces the usefulness of this type of phosphite.

[0008] It is also known that trialkyl phosphites, while providing good early stability and color as well as good initial ultraviolet stability, suffer from poor long-term stability. Triaryl phosphites by contrast, provide good long-term stability, but suffer from early color and ultraviolet stability. Bis-phenol A diphosphites are recognized to provide excellent performance, but at a cost which is higher than commercially viable for many applications.

[0009] Pentaerythritol type phosphites and vinyl resins stabilized with such phosphites are disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 3,281,381 by I. Hechenbleikner and F. C. Lanoue. These pentaerythritol phosphites are prepared by the transesterification of triphenyl phosphite with pentaerythritol to give, depending on the molar ratio of the triphenyl phosphite and pentaerythritol, a variety of possible structures. Tetra-phosphites are made by using four (4) moles of the tri(aromatic phosphite), such as triphenyl phosphite for each mole of the pentaerythritol. "Spiro" products, which are diphosphites, are made from the reaction of two

moles of the triaryl phosphite with one mole of pentaerythritol. Mixed cyclic and non-cyclic esters are made by the reaction of three moles of the starting phosphite with each mole of pentaerythritol. Although the phenol formed in the transesterification reaction used to produce these materials from triphenylphosphite is removed by distillation during the preparation, the products still contain small quantities of free phenol, and phenol bound as a phosphite ester may be liberated during compounding or mixing.

[0010] Hechenbleikner, in U.S. Pat. No. 3,205,250 suggests the use of dialkylpentaerythritol diphosphites as stabilizers for polyvinyl chloride. Such dialkyl pentaerythritol diphosphites are prepared according to U.S. Pat. No. 4,206,103 by the reaction of two moles of an alkyl alcohol with a diphenyl- or dichloropentaerythritol diphosphite, made by the reaction of two moles of triphenylphosphite or phosphorous trichloride with one mole of pentaerythritol. When diphenyl pentaerythritol diphosphite is the reactant, the spiro isomer comprises about half the combined total of spiro and caged isomers in the product. When dichloropentaerythritol diphosphite is substituted for the diphenyl pentaerythritol diphosphite, the product which

results is the relatively pure spiro isomer, which is generally a solid.

[0011] The preparation of dialkylpentaerythritol diphosphites which are not contaminated by the presence of phenol is disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 4,290,976. The process disclosed utilizes the dichloropentaerythritol diphosphite made from phosphorous trichloride and pentaerythritol as a starting material since it does not contain a phenyl group and there is no possibility of phenol being formed as a contaminant. The products of the process described are characterized by higher set points and as a result do not form stable one-phase mixtures with liquid mixed metal stabilizers.

[0012] U.S. Pat. No. 3,047,608 describes the preparation of trialkyl phosphites and dialkyl pentaerythritol diphosphites by transesterification from triphenyl phosphite using a dialkyl or diphenyl phosphite as catalyst. The completeness of the transesterification and the removal of the by-product phenol is controlled by the addition of an excess of the higher aliphatic alcohol, and removal of that excess along with the residual phenol by slow co-distillation under vacuum. The use of the diphenyl phosphites as catalysts, however, is not efficient, and the product from reac-

tion of pentaerythritol with two moles of triphenyl phosphite and four moles of the higher aliphatic alcohol is mostly in the spiro form, and is incompatible with liquid mixed metal stabilizers.

[0013] U.S. Patent No. 6,362,260 describes liquid organic phosphites of low volatility, based on pentaerythritol, alkyl alcohols and alkyl phenols, which are essentially phenol-free, but which require a pentaerythritol core structure.

[0014] Accordingly, there remains a need for essentially phenol free phosphites (as used in this application to mean less than or equal to 0.5%) which have good compatibility, performance, low volatility, package stability with mixed metal stabilizers and good performance, eliminating the drawbacks typically associated with current state-of-the-art phenol-based phosphites such as didecyl phenyl phosphite or diphenyl decyl phosphite.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

[0015] One aspect of the present invention is a phosphite useful as a thermal stabilizer in vinyl polymers, especially polyvinyl chloride resin, of very low or nil phenol content (less than 0.5%) which is compatible with liquid mixed metal stabilizers.

[0016] It is another aspect of the present invention to provide es-

entially phenol-free phosphites for use in PVC as an alternative to the conventional phenol-containing products such as phenyl diisodecyl phosphite and diphenyl isodecyl phosphite. It is easily recognized that phenol with a boiling point of 182°C, will be liberated significantly more quickly than either nonylphenol with a boiling point of 295°C or para-cumylphenol with a boiling point of 335°C. both nonylphenol and para-cumyl phenol are insoluble in water, whereas phenol is moderately soluble.

[0017] It is a further aspect of the present invention to provide phosphite which use para-cumyl phenol in order to provide an essentially phenol-free derivative of the above mentioned conventional phosphites, yet provide equivalent or better performance to more traditional phosphite stabilizers used presently.

[0018] These and other objects of this invention will be evident when viewed in light of the drawings, detailed description and the pending claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0019] The invention may take physical form in certain parts and arrangements of parts, a preferred embodiment of which will be described in detail in the specification and illustrated in the accompanying drawings which form a part

hereof, and wherein:

- [0020] FIG. 1 is a graph of Yellowness Index over time (minutes) for various PVC compounds stabilized using various phosphites using the composition of Table III and the data of Table IV;
- [0021] FIG. 2 is a graph of Yellowness Index over time (minutes) for various PVC compounds stabilized using various phosphites using the composition of Table III and the data of Table V;
- [0022] FIG. 3 is a graph of tensile strength (psi) of various phosphites in PVC resin using the composition of Table III;
- [0023] FIG. 4 is a graph of Yellowness Index color stability for various phosphites in PVC resin using the composition of Table VI vs. exposure time (hours) in a QUV Weatherometer;
- [0024] FIG. 5 is a graph of Yellowness Index over time (minutes) for various phosphites in PVC resin using the composition of Table VI vs. exposure time (hours) in a QUV Weatherometer;
- [0025] FIG. 6 is a graph of Yellowness Index over time (minutes) for various phosphites comparing the Color Stability measured by the Yellowness Index (YI) at 185°C using the composition of Table III; and

[0026] FIG. 7 is a graph of Yellowness Index Yellowness Index over time (hours) for various phosphites in PVC resin using the composition of Table VI vs. exposure time (hours) in Xenon arc weathering performance at 65°C using the composition of Table III.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

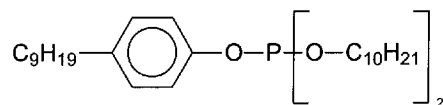
[0027] Various phenol-free phosphites for use in PVC as an alternative to the conventional phenol-containing products phenyl diisodecyl phosphite and diphenyl isodecyl phosphite were tested. The bulk of these phosphites utilize either nonylphenol or para-cumyl phenol in order to provide a phenol free derivative of the above mentioned conventional phosphites.

[0028] All phosphites were rated based on the stability performance they provide for PVC when used in the presence of a zinc compound. Testing parameters were thermal stability at 185°C and 70°C, and weathering performance in a QUV weatherometer at 65°C.

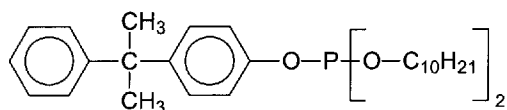
[0029] The below listed phosphites were synthesized from triphenyl phosphite (TPP), alcohol, and the indicated functionality to produce a "phenol-free" phosphite. In this application, the following abbreviations will be employed:

[0030]

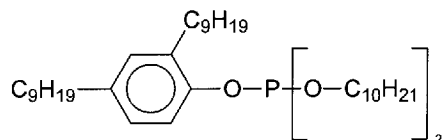
NPDDP
(nonylphenyl diisodecyl phosphite)



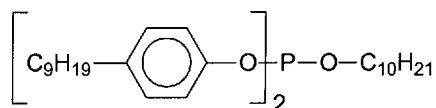
PCPDDP
(para-cumylphenyl diisodecyl phosphite)



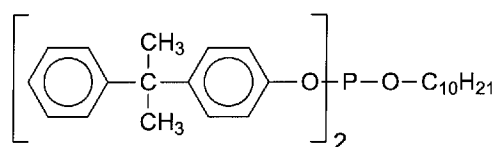
DNPDDP
(di-nonylphenyl diisodecyl phosphite)



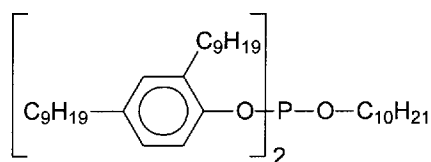
DNPDP
(bis (nonylphenyl) isodecyl phosphite)



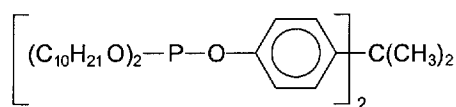
DPCPDP
(bis (para-cumyl) isodecyl phosphite)



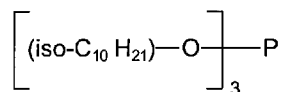
DDNPDP
(bis (di-nonylphenyl) isodecyl phosphite)



Alkyl (C₁₀) BPA phosphite
(DOVERPHOS™ 675) or (DP-675)



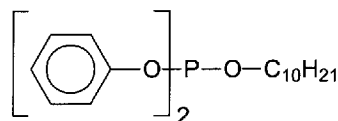
Triisodecyl phosphite
(DOVERPHOS™ 6) or (DP-6)



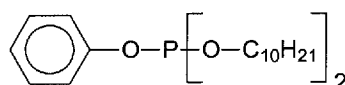
[0031] All compounds listed above were compared to the following phenol-containing phosphites for performance.

[0032]

DPDP (or DoverPhos™ 8)
(diphenyl decyl phosphite)
(DP-8)



PDDP (or DoverPhos™ 7)
(phenyl didecyl phosphite)
(DP-7)



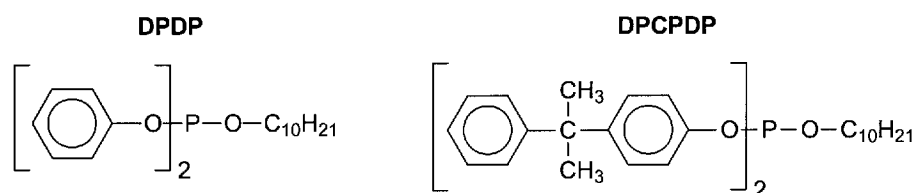
[0033] Tables I and II compare the volatilities of the various phosphites.

Table I

Phosphite	T°C for 10% Wt. reduction	T°C for 24% Wt. reduction
DP-8	232	259
DP-7	242	269
DPCPDP	276	322
PCPDDP	259	300
DNPDP	279	318
DP-675	222	267

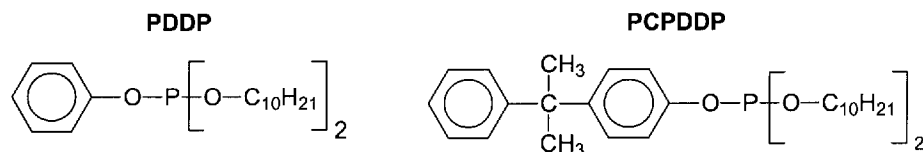
[0034] Table I shows that phosphites based on para-cumyl phenol, rather than phenol, require much higher temperatures for 10% and 25% weight loss than the corresponding phosphites based on phenol. Compare for example DPDP (Doverphos™8) to its para-cumyl phenol analog DPCPDP.

[0035]



[0036] A temperature of 232°C vs. 276°C for 10% weight loss and 259°C vs. 322°C for a 25% weight loss. Also compare PDDP (Doverphos 7) to its para-cumyl phenol analog PCPDDP.

[0037]



[0038] A temperature of 242°C vs. 259°C for 10% weight loss and 269°C vs. 300°C for a 25% weight loss. Lower volatility will

result in less undesirable "fogging." Table II shows isothermal volatility at 185°C (typical processing temperature) after 15 and 30 minutes.

[0039]

Table II		
(% weight loss at 185°C)		
Phosphite	After 15 min.	After 30 min.
DP-8	1.20	1.61
DP-7	1.23	1.55
DPCPDP	0.78	1.07
PCPDDP	0.84	1.22
DNPDP	1.00	1.60
DP-675	1.07	1.60

Comparing the same two sets of phosphites as before, at the end of 15 minutes at 185°C DPDP (Doverphos 8) had a weight loss of 1.2% vs. 0.78% for DPCPDP, a value which is 53% less than that of DP-8. After 30 minutes at 185°C, DP-8 had a weight loss of 1.61 vs. 1.07 for DPCPDP, a value which is 50% less than DP-8. For DP-7 and its para-cumyl phenol analog PCPDDP, after 15 minutes, the weight loss was 1.23% in comparison of 0.84%, a value which is 46% less. After 30 minutes at that same temperature, the weight loss for DP-7 was 1.55% vs. 1.22%, a value which is 22% less.

[0040] The use of the above identified phosphites to serve as essentially phenol-free alternatives in zinc based stabilizer packages was studied using the chemical formulation listed below in Table III.

<u>Parts</u>	<u>Component</u>
100	PVC Resin
38	DOP
2.0	ESO (epoxidized soybean oil)
0.15	Zinc stearate
3.0	phosphite

[0042] Derivative phosphites of DoverPhos™8 (DP-8) performed exceptionally well in thermal stability evaluations. FIG. 1 shows yellowness index values, a measure of color stability, over time exposed to 185°C based on the data in TABLE IV and the compositions of TABLE III.

TABLE IV

[illegible]

[0044] The data above indicates both the para-cumylphenyl derivative (DPCPDP) and bis nonylphenyl isodecyl phosphite (DNPDP) derivatives offer improved performance compared to diphenyl isodecyl phosphite (DPDP). However, the performance of bis (dinonylphenyl) isodecyl phosphite (DDNPDP) did not perform as well although it did show that phenol-free derivatives can offer similar performance. The DoverPhos™ 7 based derivatives (PDDP) also exhibited the comparable trends of improved performance in PVC systems. The paracumyl phenol version of the phenyl diisodecyl phosphite (PCPDDP) and the nonylphenyl version (NPDDP) both performed exceptionally well (especially PCPDDP), while the dinonylphenyl derivative offers equivalent performance to the DoverPhos™7 phosphite (PDDP) as illustrated in FIG. 2, which shows yellowness index values over time exposed to 185°C based on the data in TABLE V and the compositions of TABLE III. As used in the table, the following abbreviations have the identified chemical formulas.

[0045]

TABLE V

Time (min.)	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120
Additive	Yellowness Index												
PDDP	1.7	2.2	3.2	5.1	7	9.4	13	16.6	21.1	49.8	147.2	160	
NPDDP	1.3	2.2	2.9	4.7	6.4	9.5	11.1	15.2	19.8	24	36	108.6	150
PCPDDP	1.2	2	2.5	4	6.5	7.4	9.9	13.4	17.9	21.2	25.3	38.3	109.6
DNPDDP	1.8	2	3.2	4.9	6.9	8.6	12	16.9	23.2	37.5	102.2	150	

[0046] The tensile strength (in psi) of the resultant molded PVC compounds all appeared to be relatively equivalent showing no significant changes in the overall mechanical properties, as would be expected and as illustrated in FIG. 3 for the compositions of TABLE III.

[0047] QUV analysis at 65°C shows relatively equivalent performance for a filled PVC formulation as shown in FIGS. 4–5 using the composition of TABLE VI.

[0048]

TABLE VI

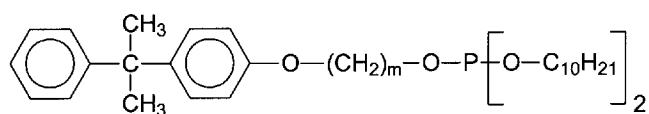
Parts	Component
100	PVC Resin
40	DOP
5.0	ESO (epoxidized soybean oil)
0.3	Zinc stearate
25	CaCO ₃
2.5	phosphite

[0049] This applies to both the DoverPhos™7 and DoverPhos™ 8

based derivatives. The exception in QUV performance appears to be di-nonylphenol diisodecyl phosphite, which did show some increased initial discoloration.

[0050] Additional work was then done on examining possible variations of a phenol free phosphite. In particular we examined the paracumylphenyl diisodecyl phosphite. Two more products were made to evaluate in zinc based stabilizer systems, namely ethoxy-paracumylphenyl diisodecyl phosphite (EPCPDDP) and propoxy-paracumylphenyl diisodecyl phosphite (PPCPDDP) wherein $m = 2$ and 3 respectively, but can be any integral value from 1 to 4.

[0051]

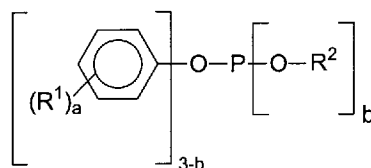


[0052] The performances of these two phosphites were compared to various other phosphites, as well as the PCPDDP product. Thermal stabilities for these phosphites closely matched the PCPDDP phosphite which, offered slightly improved long term stability compared to the PDDP product. This performance was a little worse than the typical DoverPhos™675 (C_{10} bisphenol-A phosphite) but significantly better in long term performance than the DoverPhos™ 6 phosphite (triisodecyl phosphite) as illustrated in FIG. 6. OLE_LINK1Xenon arc weathering performance at

65°C OLE_LINK1 showed exceptional performance from the ethoxylated and propoxylated PCP derivative phosphites as shown in FIG. 7. PCPDDP performs well versus the DoverPhos™7 phosphite however, only the ethoxy and propoxy versions of this phosphite offer better weathering performance than tridecyl phosphite (TDP). As used above, the following chemical formulas are associated with the following abbreviations.

[0053] In more generic form, what has been illustrated is an essentially phenol-free forming phosphite additive having the following Markush formulation:

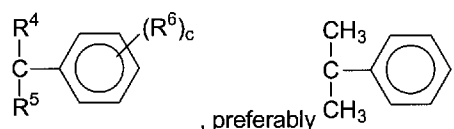
[0054]



wherein

R¹

is selected from the group consisting of



R²

is selected from the group consisting of C₈₋₁₆ alkyls; (preferably C₁₀H₂₁)

a

is an integral value ranging from 1 to 4 inclusive;

b

is an integral value ranging from 1 to 2 inclusive;

R⁴ and R⁵

are independently selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₃ alkyls;

R⁶

is selected from the group consisting of C₈₋₁₂ alkyls and C₈₋₁₂ alkoxy compounds; and

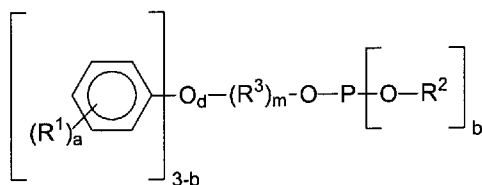
c

is an integral value ranging from 0 to 4 inclusive.

[0055] In an alternative generic form, what has been illustrated is an essentially phenol-free forming phosphite additive

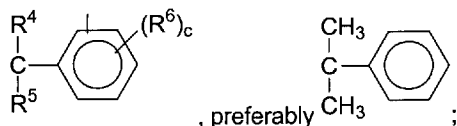
having the following Markush formulation:

[0056]



wherein

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of



R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_{8-16} alkyls; (preferably $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{21}$)

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-4} alkyls; (preferably ethyl and propyl)

m is an integral value ranging from 0 to 1 inclusive;

a is an integral value ranging from 1 to 4 inclusive;

b is an integral value ranging from 1 to 2 inclusive;

R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of C_{1-3} alkyls;

R^6 is selected from the group consisting of C_{8-12} alkyls and C_{8-12} alkoxy compounds;

c is an integral value ranging from 0 to 4 inclusive; and

d is equal to m .

[0057] While halogenated polymer resins, particularly PVC are believed to be one of the preferred embodiments of this invention, the teachings and claims are not so limited. In fact, the compositions and the methods of the current invention may be used to stabilize any of the polymers known in the art, such as polyolefins, polyesters, polyurethanes, polyalkylene terephthalates, polysulfones, polyimides, polyphenylene ethers, styrenic polymers, polycarbonates, acrylic polymers, polyamides, polyacetals,

halide containing polymers and polyolefin homopolymers and copolymers. Additionally included would be mixtures of different polymers, such as polyphenylene ether/styrenic resin blends, polyvinylchloride/ABS or other impact modified polymers, such as methacrylonitrile containing ABS, and polyester/ABS or polyester plus some other impact modifier may also be used. Such polymers are available commercially or may be made by means well known in the art. However, the diphosphites of the invention are particularly useful in thermoplastic polymers, such as polyolefins, polycarbonates, polyesters, polyphenylene ethers thermoplastic polymers, such as polyolefins, polycarbonates, polyesters, polyphenylene ethers and styrenic polymers, due to the extreme temperatures at which the thermoplastic polymers are often processed and/or used.

[0058] Polymers of monoolefins and diolefins, for example would include polypropylene, polyisobutylene, polybutene-1, polymethylpentene-1, polyisoprene or polybutadiene, as well as polymers of cycloolefins, for instance of cyclopentene or norbornene, polyethylene (which optionally can be crosslinked), for example high density polyethylene (HDPE), low density polyethylene (LDPE) and linear low

density polyethylene (LLDPE) may be used. Mixtures of these polymers, for example mixtures of polypropylene with polyisobutylene, polypropylene with polyethylene (for example PP/HDPE), may also be used. Also useful are copolymers of monoolefins and diolefins with each other or with other vinyl monomers, such as, for example, ethylene/propylene, LLDPE and its mixtures with LDPE, propylene/butene-1, ethylene/hexene, ethylene/ethylpentene, ethylene/heptene, ethylene/octene, propylene/butadiene, isobutylene/isoprene, ethylene/alkyl acrylates, ethylene/alkyl methacrylates, ethylene/vinyl acetate (EVA) or ethylene/acrylic acid copolymers (EAA) and their salts (ionomers) and terpolymers of ethylene with propylene and a diene, such as hexadiene, dicyclopentadiene or ethylidene-norbornene; as well as mixtures of such copolymers and their mixtures with polymers mentioned above, for example polypropylene/ethylene-propylene copolymers, LDPE/EVA, LDPE/EAA, LLDPE/EVA and LLDPE/EAA.

[0059] Thermoplastic polymers may also include styrenic polymers, such as polystyrene, poly-(p-methylstyrene), poly-(α -methylstyrene), copolymers of styrene, p-methylstyrene or alpha-methylstyrene with dienes or

acrylic derivatives, such as, for example, styrene/butadiene, styrene/acrylonitrile, styrene/alkyl methacrylate, styrene/maleic anhydride, styrene/butadiene/ethyl acrylate, styrene/acrylonitrile/methacrylate; mixtures of high impact strength from styrene copolymers and another polymer, such as, for example, from a polyacrylate, a diene polymer or an ethylene/propylene/diene terpolymer; and block copolymers of styrene, such as, for example, styrene/butadiene/styrene, styrene/isoprene/styrene, styrene/ethylene/butylene/styrene or styrene/ethylene/propylene/styrene. Styrenic polymers may additionally or alternatively include graft copolymers of styrene or alpha-methylstyrene such as, for example, styrene on polybutadiene, styrene on polybutadiene-styrene or polybutadiene-acrylonitrile; styrene and acrylonitrile (or methacrylonitrile) on polybutadiene; styrene and maleic anhydride or maleimide on polybutadiene; styrene, acrylonitrile and maleic anhydride or maleimide on polybutadiene; styrene, acrylonitrile and methyl methacrylate on polybutadiene, styrene and alkyl acrylates or methacrylates on polybutadiene, styrene and acrylonitrile on ethylene/propylene/diene terpolymers, styrene and acrylonitrile on polyacrylates or polymethacrylates, styrene and

acrylonitrile on acrylate/butadiene copolymers, as well as mixtures of the styrenic copolymers indicated above.

[0060] Nitrile polymers are also useful. These include homopolymers and copolymers of acrylonitrile and its analogs such as methacrylonitrile, such as polyacrylonitrile, acrylonitrile/butadiene polymers, acrylonitrile/alkyl acrylate polymers, acrylonitrile/alkyl methacrylate/butadiene polymers, acrylonitrile/butadiene/styrene (ABS), and ABS which includes methacrylonitrile.

[0061] Polymers based on acrylic acids, such as acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, methyl methacrylate acid and ethacrylic acid and esters thereof may also be used. Such polymers include polymethylmethacrylate, and ABS-type graft copolymers wherein all or part of the acrylonitrile-type monomer has been replaced by an acrylic acid ester or an acrylic acid amide. Polymers including other acrylic-type monomers, such as acrolein, methacrolein, acrylamide and methacrylamide may also be used.

[0062] Halogen-containing polymers are particularly preferred. These include resins such as polychloroprene, epichlorohydrin homopolymers and copolymers, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinyl bromide, polyvinyl fluoride, polyvinylidene chloride, chlorinated polyethylene, chlorinated polypropylene,

fluorinated polyvinylidene, brominated polyethylene, chlorinated rubber, vinyl chloride–vinylacetate copolymer, vinyl chloride–ethylene copolymer, vinyl chloride propylene copolymer, vinyl chloride–styrene copolymer, vinyl chloride–isobutylene copolymer, vinyl chloride–vinylidene chloride copolymer, vinyl chloride–styrene–maleic anhydride tercopolymer, vinyl chloride–styrene–acrylonitrile copolymer, vinyl chloride–isoprene copolymer, vinyl chloride–chlorinated propylene copolymer, vinyl chloride–vinylidene chloride–vinyl acetate tercopolymer, vinyl chloride–acrylic acid ester copolymers, vinyl chloride–maleic acid ester copolymers, vinyl chloride–methacrylic acid ester copolymers, vinyl chloride–acrylonitrile copolymer and internally plasticized polyvinyl chloride.

[0063] Other useful thermoplastic polymers include homopolymers and copolymers of cyclic ethers, such as polyalkylene glycols, polyethylene oxide, polypropylene oxide or copolymers thereof with bis–glycidyl ethers; polyacetals, such as polyoxymethylene and those polyoxymethylene which contain ethylene oxide as a comonomer; polyacetals modified with thermoplastic polyurethanes, acrylates or methacrylonitrile containing ABS; polyphenylene oxides and sulfides, and mixtures of polyphenylene oxides with

polystyrene or polyamides; polycarbonates and polyester-carbonates; polysulfones, polyethersulfones and polyetherketones; and polyesters which are derived from dicarboxylic acid and diols and/or from hydroxycarboxylic acids or the corresponding lactones, such as polyethylene terephthalate, polybutylene terephthalate, poly-1,4-dimethylol-cyclohexane terephthalate, poly-[2,2,4-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-propane] terephthalate and polyhydroxybenzoates as well as block copolyetheresters derived from polyethers having hydroxyl end groups.

[0064] Polyamides and copolyamides which are derived from diamines and dicarboxylic acids and/or from aminocarboxylic acids or the corresponding lactams, such as polyamide-4, polyamide-6, polyamide-6/6, polyamide-6/10, polyamide-6/9, polyamide-6/12, polyamide-4/6, polyamide-11, polyamide-12, aromatic polyamides obtained by condensation of *m*-xylene, diamine and adipic acid; polyamides prepared from hexamethylene diamine and isophthalic and/or terephthalic acid and optionally an elastomer as modifier, for example, poly-2,4,4-trimethylhexamethylene terephthalamide or poly-*m*-phenylene isophthalamide may be useful. Further copolymers of the aforementioned polyamides with poly-

olefins, olefin copolymers, ionomers or chemically bonded or grafted elastomers; or with polyethers, such as for instance, with polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol or polytetramethylene glycols, and polyamides or copolyamides modified with EPDM or ABS may be used.

[0065] The resulting stabilized polymer compositions comprising the phosphites made by the process of this invention may optionally also contain various conventional additives, such as the following:

[0066] (1) Antioxidants

[0067] (1.1) Alkylated monophenols, for example
2,6-di-tert-butyl-4-methylphenol,
2-tert-butyl-4,6-dimethylphenol,
2,6-di-tert-butyl-4-ethylphenol,
2,6-di-tert-butyl-4-n-butylphenol,
2,6-di-tert-butyl-isobutylphenol,
2,6-di-cyclopentyl-4-methylphenol,
2-(α -methylcyclohexyl)-4,6-dimethylphenol,
2,6-dioctadecyl-4-methylphenol,
2,4,6-tricyclohexylphenol,
2,6-di-tert-butyl-4-methoxymethylphenol and
2,6-di-nonyl-4-methylphenol.

[0068] (1.2) Alkylated hydroquinones, for example

2,6-di-tert-butyl-4-methoxyphenol,
2,5-di-tert-butylhydroquinone,
2,5-di-tert-amylhydroquinone and
2,6-diphenyl-4-octadecyloxyphenol.

[0069] (1.3) Hydroxylated thiodiphenyl ethers, for example

2,2'-thiobis-(6-tert-butyl-4-methylphenol),
2,2'-thiobis-(4-octylphenol),
4,4'-thiobis-(6-tert-butyl-3-methylphenol),
4,4'-thiobis-(6-tert-butyl-2-methylphenol).

[0070] (1.4) Alkylidene bisphenols, for example

2,2'-methylenebis-(6-tert-butyl-4-methylphenol),
2,2'-methylenebis-(6-tert-butyl-4-ethylphenol),
2,2'-methylenebis-[4-methyl-6-(α -methylcyclohexyl)-phenol], 2,2'-methylenebis-(4-methyl-6-cyclohexylphenol),
2,2'-methylenebis-(6-nonyl-4-methylphenol),
2,2'-methylenebis-(4,6-di-tert-butylphenol),
2,2'-ethylidenebis-(4,6-di-tert-butylphenol),
2,2'-ethylidenebis-(6-tert-butyl-4-isobutylphenol),
2,2'-methylenebis-[6-(α -methylbenzyl)-4-nonylphenol],
2,2'-methylenebis-[6-(α,α -dimethylbenzyl)-4-nonylphenol], 4,4'-methylenebis-(2,6-di-tert-butylphenol),
4,4'-methylenebis-(6-tert-butyl-2-methylphenol),
1,1-bis-(5-tert-butyl-4-hydroxy-2-methylphenyl)-butan

e,

2,6-bis-(3-tert-butyl-5-methyl-2-hydroxybenzyl)-4-methylphenol,

1,1,3-tris-(5-tert-butyl-4-hydroxy-2-methylphenyl)-butane,

1,1-bis-(5-tert-butyl-4-hydroxy-2-methylphenyl)-3-n-dodecylmercaptobutane, ethylene glycol bis-

[3,3-bis-(3'-tert-butyl-4'-hydroxyphenyl)-butyrate], bis-(3-tert-butyl-4-hydroxy-5-methylphenyl)-dicyclopentadiene and bis-

[2-(3'-tert-butyl-2'-hydroxy-5'-methylbenzyl)-6-tert-butyl-4-methylphenyl] terephthalate.

[0071] (1.5) Benzyl compounds, for example

1,3,5-tris-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxybenzyl)-2,4,6-trimethylbenzene, bis-

(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxybenzyl)sulfide, isooctyl

3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxybenzylmercaptoacetate,

bis(4-tert-butyl-3-hydroxy-2,6-methylbenzyl)-dithiol terephthalate,

1,3,5-tris-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxybenzyl)isocyanurate,

1,3,5-tris-(4-tert-butyl-3-hydroxy-2,6-dimethylbenzyl)isocyanurate, dioctadecyl

3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxybenzylphosphonate, the Ca salt of monoethyl

3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxybenzylphosphonate and 1,3,5-tris-(3,5-dicyclohexyl-4-hydroxybenzyl)isocyanurate.

[0072] (1.6) Acylaminophenols, for example 4-hydroxylauranilide, 4-hydroxystearanilide, 2,4-bis-(octylmercapto)-6-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyaniline-s-triazine and octyl N-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-carbamate.

[0073] (1.7) Esters of β -(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-propionic acid, with monohydric or polyhydric alcohols, for example methanol, octadecanol, 1,6-hexanediol, neopentyl glycol, thiodiethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, pentaerythritol, tris-(hydroxyethyl) isocyanurate and N,N'-bis-(hydroxyethyl)oxamide.

[0074] (1.8) Esters of β -(5-tert-butyl-4-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl)-propionic acid with monohydric or polyhydric alcohols, for example methanol, octadecanol, 1,6-hexanediol, neopentyl glycol, thiodiethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, pentaerythritol, tris-(hydroxyethyl) isocyanurate and

N,N'-bis-(hydroxyethyl)oxamide.

[0075] (1.9) Esters of β -

(3,5-dicyclohexyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-propionic acid with monohydric or polyhydric alcohols, for example methanol, octadecanol, 1,6-hexanediol, neopentyl glycol, thiodiethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, pentaerythritol, tris-(hydroxyethyl) isocyanurate and N,N'-bis-(hydroxyethyl)oxamide.

[0076] (1.10) Amides of β -

(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-propionic acid, for example

N,N'-bis-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenylpropionyl)-hexamethylenediamine ,

N,N'-bis-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenylpropionyl)-trimethylenediamine and

N,N'-bis-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenylpropionyl)-hydrazine.

[0077] (2) UV absorbers and light stabilizers.

[0078] (2.1) 2-(2'-hydroxyphenyl)-benzotriazoles, for example the 5'-methyl-, 3',5'-di-tert-butyl-, 5'-tert-butyl-, 5'-(1,1,3,3-tetramethylbutyl)-, 5-chloro-3',5'-di-tert-butyl-, 5-chloro-3'-tert-butyl-5'-methyl-,

3'-sec-butyl-5'-tert-butyl-, 4'-octoxy-,
3',5'-di-tert-amyl-, 3',5'-bis-(α,α -dimethylbenzyl)-
derivatives.

[0079] (2.2) 2-Hydroxybenzophenones, for example the
4-hydroxy-, 4-methoxy-, 4-octoxy-, 4-decyloxy-,
4-dodecyloxy-, 4-benzyloxy-, 4,2',4'-trihydroxy- or
2'-hydroxy-4,4'-dimethoxy- derivatives.

[0080] (2.3) Esters of unsubstituted or substituted benzoic acids,
for example 4-tert-butylphenyl salicylate, phenyl salicy-
late, octylphenyl salicylate, dibenzoylresorcinol, bis-
(4-tert-butylbenzoyl)-resorcinol, benzoylresorcinol,
2,4-di-tert-butylphenyl
3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxybenzoate and hexadecyl
3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxybenzoate.

[0081] (2.4) Acrylates, for example ethyl or isooctyl α -
cyano- β,β -diphenylacrylate, methyl α -
carbomethoxycinnamate, methyl or butyl α -
cyano- β -methyl-p-methoxycinnamate, methyl α -
carbomethoxy-p-methoxycinnamate or N-
(β -carbomethoxy- β -cyanovinyl)-2-methylindoline.

[0082] (2.5) Nickel compounds, for example nickel complexes of
2,2'-thiobis-[4-(1,1,3,3-tetramethylbutyl)-phenol], such
as the 1:1 complex or the 1:2 complex, if appropriate with

additional ligands, such as n-butylamine, triethanolamine or N-cyclohexyldiethanolamine, nickel dibutyldithiocarbamate, nickel salts of monoalkyl

4-hydroxy-3,5-di-tert-butylbenzylphosphonates, such as the methyl or ethyl ester, nickel complexes of ketoximes, such as 2-hydroxy-4-methylphenyl undecyl ketoxime, or nickel complexes of 1-phenyl-4-lauroyl-5-hydroxypyrazole, if appropriate with additional ligands.

[0083] (2.6) Oxamides, for example 4,4'-di-octyloxyoxanilide, 2,2'-di-octyloxy-5,5'-di-tert-butylloxanilide, 2,2'-di-dodecyloxy-5,5'-di-tert-butylloxanilide, 2-ethoxy-2'-ethyloxanilide, N,N'-bis-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-oxalamide, 2-ethoxy-5-tert-butyl-2'-ethyloxanilide and a mixture thereof with 2-ethoxy-2'-ethyl-5,4'-di-tert-butylloxanilide or mixtures of o-methoxy- and p-methoxy-disubstituted oxanilides and of o-ethoxy- and p-ethoxy-disubstituted oxanilides.

[0084] (3) Metal deactivators, for example, N,N'-diphenyloxamide, N-salicylal-N'-salicyloylhydrazine, N,N'-bis-(salicyloyl)-hydrazine, N,N'-bis-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenylpropionyl)-h

ydrazine, 3-salicyloylamino-1,2,4-triazole and bis-(benzylidene)-oxalic acid dihydrazide.

[0085] (4) Phosphites and phosphonites, for example triphenyl phosphite, diphenyl alkyl phosphites, phenyl dialkyl phosphites, tris-(nonylphenyl) phosphite, trilauryl phosphite, trioctadecyl phosphite, distearyl pentaerythritol diphosphite, tris-(2,4-di-tert-butylphenyl) phosphite, diisodecyl pentaerythritol diphosphite, bis-(2,4-di-tert-butylphenyl) pentaerythritol diphosphite, tristearyl sorbitol triphosphite, tetrakis-(2,4-di-tert-butylphenyl) 4,4'-biphenylene diphosphonite and 3,9-bis-(2,4-di-tert-butylphenoxy)-2,4,8,1-tetraoxa-3,9-diphosphaspiro[5.5]undecane.

[0086] (5) Peroxide scavengers, for example esters of β -thiodipropionic acid, for example the lauryl, stearyl, myristyl or tridecyl esters, mercaptobenzimidazole, the zinc salt of 2-mercaptobenzimidazole, zinc dibutyldithiocarbamate, dioctadecyl disulfide and pentaerythritol tetrakis-(β -dodecylmercapto)propionate.

[0087] (6) Polyamide stabilizers, for example copper salts in combination with iodides and/or phosphorus compounds and salts of divalent manganese.

[0088] (7) Basic co-stabilizers, for example, melamine,

polyvinylpyrrolidone, dicyandiamide, triallyl cyanurate, urea derivatives, hydrazine derivatives, amines, polyamides, polyurethanes, alkali metal salts and alkaline earth metal salts of higher fatty acids for example calcium stearate, barium stearate, magnesium stearate, sodium ricinoleate, potassium palmitate, antimony pyrocatecholate and zinc pyrocatecholate.

[0089] (8) Nucleating agents, for example, 4-*t*-butyl-benzoic acid, adipic acid, diphenylacetic acid.

[0090] (9) Fillers and reinforcing agents, for example, calcium carbonate, silicates, glass fibers, asbestos, talc, kaolin, mica, barium sulfate, metal oxides and hydroxides, carbon black, graphite.

[0091] (10) Aminoxypropanoate derivatives such as methyl-3-[N,N-dibenzylaminoxy]propanoate; ethyl-3-[N,N-dibenzylaminoxy]propanoate; 1,6-hexamethylene-bis[3-(N,N-dibenzylaminoxy)propanoate]; methyl-[2-(methyl)-3-(N,N-dibenzylaminoxy)propanoate]; octadecyl-3-[N,N-dibenzyl-aminoxy]propanoic acid; tetrakis[(N,N-dibenzylaminoxy)ethyl carbonyl oxymethyl]methane; octadecyl-3-[N,N-diethylaminoxy]propanoate; 3-[N,N-dibenzylaminoxy]propanoic acid potassium salt;

and 1,6-hexamethylene bis[3-(N-allyl-N-dodecylaminoxy)propanoate].

[0092] (11) Other additives, for example, plasticizers, lubricants, emulsifiers, pigments, optical brighteners, flame-proofing agents, anti-static agents, blowing agents and thiosynergists such as dilaurylthiodipropionate or distearylthiodipropionate.

[0093] Hindered phenolic antioxidants may also be present in the polymer composition. Use of bis(alkylphenyl) pentaerythritol diphosphites of the present invention may result in enhanced polymer protection by reducing the formation of color resulting from the presence of the phenols. Such phenolic antioxidants include in addition to those specifically mentioned previously, n-octadecyl-3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxyhydrocinnamate, neopentaneterayl tetrakis-(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxyl-hydrocinnamate), di-n-octadecyl-3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxybenzyl-phosphonate, 1,3,5-tris(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxybenzyl-)isocyanurate, thiodiethylene-bis(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxyhydrocinnamate), 1,3,5-trimethyl-2,4,6-tris(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxybenzyl-)isocyanurate, and 1,3,5-trimethyl-2,4,6-tris(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxybenzyl-)isocyanurate.

yl)benzene, 3,6-di-oxaocetamethylene

bis(3-methyl-5-t-butyl-4-hydroxyhydrocinnamate),

2,6-di-t-butyl-p-cresol, 2,2'-ethylidene-bis(4,6-di-t-butylphenol),

1,3,5-tris-(2,6-di-methyl-4-t-butyl-3-hydroxybenzyl)isocyanurate,

1,1,3-tris-(2-methyl-4-hydroxy-5-t-butylphenyl)butane,

1,3,5-tris[2-(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxyhydrocinnainoloxo)-ethyl]-isocyanurate,

3,5-di-(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxybenzyl)-mesitol, hexamethylene-

bis(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxyhydrocinnamate),

1-(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxyanilino)-3,5-di(octylthio)-s-triazine,

N,N'-hexamethylene-bis(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxyhydrocinnamamide), calcium

bis(ethyl-3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxybenzylphosphonate),

ethylene bis[3,3-di(3-t-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)butyrate], octyl

3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxybenzylmercaptoacetate, bis(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxyhydrocinnamoyl(hydrazide,

and N,N'-bis-[2-(3,5-t-butyl-4-hydroxyhydrocinnamoyloxy)-ethyl]-oxamide, and preferably neopentane tetrayl-

trakis(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxyhydrocinnamate),n-octadecyl-

3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxyhydrocinnamate,1,3,5-trimethyl-

2,4,6-tris(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxybenzyl)benzene,1,3,5-tris-(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxybenzyl)isocyanurate,

2,6-di-t-butyl-p-cresol

or2,2'-ethylidene-bis(4,6-di-t-butylphenol).

[0094] (12) Lactones, for example, 5,

7-di-t-butyl-3-phenyl-3H-benzofuran-2-one;

5,7-di-cumyl-3-phenyl-3H-benzofuran-2-one; nonyl-e-phenyl-3H-benzofuran-2-one; dinonyl-

3-phenyl-3H-benzofuran-2-one;

5-t-butyl-3-phenyl-3H-benzofuran-2-one;

5-cumyl-3-phenyl-3H-benzofuran-2-one; and octyl-3-phenyl-3H-benzofuran-2-one, and other

3-arylbenzofuran-2-ones.

[0095] Other additives, such as oxazaphospholidines, may additionally or alternatively be present. Likewise, the instant compounds prevent color formation when hindered amine light stabilizers are present, such hindered amines including-

bis(1,2,2,6,6-pentamethyl-4-piperidyl)2-n-butyl-2-(3,5-

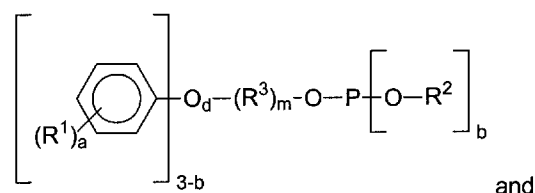
di-*t*-butyl-4-hydroxy-benzyl) malonate;
bis(2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4-piperidyl) sebacate; dimethyl-
succinate polymer with
4-hydroxy-2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-1-piperidinethanol; and
polymers of 2,4-dichloro-6-octylamino-s-triazine with
N'-(2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4-piperidyl)hexamethylene di-
amine.

[0096] Thus, what has been shown is that one way to reduce the
formation of volatile phenol is to substitute at least a por-
tion of the phosphite additive with a phosphite which does
not break down into a phenolic unit or minimally breaks
down into phenolic units. Preferred examples of this type
of phosphite include ethoxy-paracumylphenyl diisodecyl
phosphite, propoxy-paracumylphenyl diisodecyl phos-
phite, para-cumyl phenyl diisodecyl phosphite and bis
para-cumyl isodecyl phosphite as well as more generi-
cally, formulas (I) and (II).

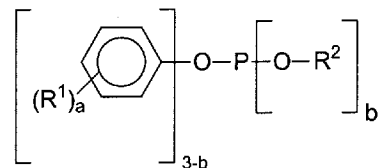
[0097] More generally disclosed is a process for reducing the
emission of phenol in a polymer resin which comprises
replacing at least a portion of a phosphite additive which
releases phenol upon exposure to heat with a phosphite
composition selected from the group consisting of

[0098]

formula (I)



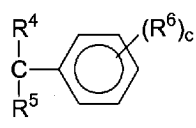
formula (II)



wherein

R^1

is



R^2

is selected from the group consisting of C_{8-16} alkyls;

R^3

is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-4} alkyls;

m

is an integral value ranging from 0 to 1 inclusive;

a

is an integral value ranging from 1 to 4 inclusive;

b

is an integral value ranging from 1 to 2 inclusive;

R^4 and R^5

are independently selected from the group consisting of C_{1-3} alkyls;

R^6

is selected from the group consisting of C_{8-12} alkyls and C_{8-12} alkoxy compounds;

c

is an integral value ranging from 0 to 4 inclusive; and

d

is equal to m .

[0099] This invention has been described in detail with reference to specific embodiments thereof, including the respective best modes for carrying out each embodiment. It shall be understood that these illustrations are by way of example and not by way of limitation.